

myregion.org
Board of Directors
MEETING BRIEF

February 10, 2006 -- Chairman R. Randolph Lyon, Jr. welcomed everyone to the first board meeting of 2006. He noted that all board meetings this year will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport. Mr. Lyon specifically recognized and introduced new board members in attendance, Ms. Geri Evans – Florida on the Move; Ms. Carol Laymance – Florida Space Authority; and Ms. Kitty Phillips – Walt Disney World.



Mr. Jacob Stuart previewed the meeting agenda and said that in 2006, input and conversation during the board meetings would be crucial as we address several significant issues with a focus on "How Shall We Grow?"

Presentation

Planning for our future... Central Florida Regional Growth Vision

Mr. Jacob Stuart and Ms. Shelley Lauten provided an overview of the Regional Growth Vision Project that will be conducted by *myregion.org* over the next 15 months. Partial funding for the project is being provided by the Florida Departments of Transportation and Community Affairs. Mr. Stuart gave background information on the regional studies that will be used to provide framework for the project. Ms. Lauten highlighted the role of the *myregion.org* Board of Directors and gave the timeline for the project.

Ms. Lauten also gave a report on the Orientation of the Regional Leadership Academy, which was held January 21-22, 2006. The three-day Strategy Session will be held March 29-31. There are currently 67 leaders from across the region participating in the Academy.

Discussion

What is myregion.org's role in advocating, educating and/or communicating regional issues?

Through the first five years of the organization, *myregion.org* has made a conscientious decision not to advocate specific projects or proposals. As the organization evolves, there have been requests for *myregion.org* to take a more aggressive role as an advocating organization. A spirited discussion by board members weighed the merits of the suggestion. There was general consensus that as *myregion.org* embarks on the Central Florida Regional Growth Vision there may eventually need for a stance of advocating, but for right now, the organization is best served to remain exclusively in the role of education and to continue the current practice of helping to incubate organizations that can advocate for specific issues.

Briefings

PRISM (Promoting Regional Improvement in Science and Math)

Mr. John Koenig, President of O-Force, and Mr. Michael Miller, Chair of O-Force, provided an update on the PRISM Project, which was spawned through the efforts of *myregion.org*. The project has recently embarked on a \$900,000 fundraising campaign for funds that would be spent during the 2006-07 school year.

Mr. Miller outlined three cornerstone programs of the PRISM Project that would be sustained through the fundraising campaign:

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1. \$5,000 cash awards for high-performing math and science teachers in the region.
2. Funds to help middle school students participate in selected math and science competitions.
3. Sponsor a special diploma that would be awarded to high school graduates who excel in advanced math and science courses.

Naturally Central Florida

Ms. Linda Chapin recapped the Naturally Central Florida program that was held in Orlando on January 25, 2006. The program featured presentations by Naturally Central Florida co-chairs Mr. Duane DeFreese and Mr. Clay Henderson as well as a recommendation by Mr. Charles Lee to create a Regional Land Authority.

Arts & Culture

Ms. Margot Knight updated the board on an Economic Impact Study of Arts & Culture in the seven county region that is currently being funded by *myregion.org* and conducted by Americans for the Arts. The goal is to combine this study with a companion study on the economic impact of sports in the region to provide a full view of the economic impact these areas have on the region. The arts & culture study will take place throughout 2006 and will be released in the spring of 2007.

Demographics & Social Services

Ms. Lawrie Platt Hall gave an update on the paper currently being finished by the Demographics and Social Services Committee. The committee has focused on the need to reposition social services in the future to ensure the needs of an aging and culturally changing region are met. Among the primary recommendations of the paper is the creation of a Regional Human Services Alliance to create a framework for well-being. Among the first issues recommended for the Alliance to discuss are disaster recovery and homelessness.

Healthcare

Mr. Shannon Elswick gave an overview of the history of the Healthcare Committee and stated that the committee is reorganizing based on the original goals set through *myregion.org*.

The committee has identified four areas of focus:

1. Support and facilitate the continued development of the Regional Health Information Network (RHIO)
2. Expand and improve access to health care services
3. Reduce health disparities
4. Encourage healthy lifestyles

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held Friday, April 28, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport.